WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A2

1. A card connector for accepting a card, which has a recess in its side surface and a plurality of contact pads on its bottom surface, and holding it in a connector housing so that the contact pads are in contact with contact terminals arranged in the connector housing, the card connector comprising:

an eject mechanism having an eject member, the eject member being adapted to move in a card insertion direction as the card is inserted into the connector and to move in a card eject direction in response to a card eject operation to eject the card;

an elastic locking piece having a locking portion to engage in the recess of the card and a stationary portion fixed in the eject member, the elastic locking piece being urged toward the card so that when the elastic locking piece is set free to move elastically by the urging force, the locking portion engages in the recess of the card; and

a locking piece guide means for guiding the elastic locking piece to elastically deform it to move the locking portion away from the recess during the card eject operation and, during the card insertion operation, releasing the elastic locking piece from the elastic deformation to engage the locking portion in the recess of the card.

2. A card connector according to claim 1, wherein the locking piece guide means has:

a protruding portion projecting from the elastic locking piece; and

a guide wall formed in the connector housing and having a tapered surface to guide the protruding portion as the eject member moves in the card insertion or eject direction.

SUB A3

3. A card connector according to claim 2, wherein the elastic locking piece is provided on a side wall portion of the connector housing and urged in a direction that presses against the side surface of the card, the protruding portion of the elastic locking piece projects upwardly or downwardly of the connector housing, and the tapered surface of the guide wall is inclined with respect to the side surface of the inserted card.

4. A card connector according to claim 2, wherein the elastic locking piece is provided near the side wall portion of the connector housing and urged in a direction that presses against the bottom surface or top surface of the card and the protruding portion of the elastic locking piece projects widthways of the connector housing, and wherein the tapered surface of

Sub A3 cont.

the guide wall is inclined with respect to the bottom surface of the inserted card.

5. A card connector according to claim 1, wherein the elastic locking piece is provided on the side wall portion of the connector housing so that it can be displaced widthways of the card, and wherein the locking piece guide means is a member projecting from the connector housing to engage a part of the elastic locking piece to elastically deform the elastic locking piece during the card eject operation.

6. A card connector according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the locking portion of the elastic locking piece is shaped virtually like a hook.

7. A card connector according to claim 1, wherein when a second card without the recess is inserted, the locking portion of the elastic locking piece works as a braking piece that presses against a wall surface of the second card to apply to the card a braking force acting in a direction opposing card retraction.

Sub A4

8. A card connector according to any one of claims 2 to 4, the connector hosing is formed with a space that prevents the protruding portion from interfering with other members when a second card without the recess is

Sub A4 (Corp.) inserted.

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